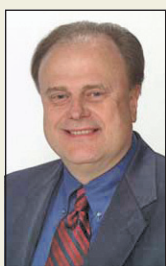




Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello again, we begin another fall campaign for membership, involvement and support of Kern County law Enforcement. Since 1988, I watched many Foundation volunteers and business sponsors help us help those who protect us daily. I have been so gratified at the rebirth and growth of our organization during the past three years. Our new "YOUNG BLOOD" (no relation to Donny) has stepped up and reinvigorated and grown our organization. We have been able to raise generous support and contributions; that help us fund so many worthwhile projects for the 18 law enforcement agencies. We know from the "thank you's"; the officers appreciate the extra equipment, training, funding and community involvement we have given them.



Tom Sheets

During the past year for example; bullet proof vests for Tehachapi Police Department, training funds for law Enforcement management, Additional tasers for the new McFarland Police Department, funding travel to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremonies for honor guards, just to name a few. We continue to offer assistance in this time of tight budgets and funding restrictions when and wherever we can. Your continued support and financial support allows us to continue our worthwhile mission. We encourage your membership, and those of you in business that want to sponsor our projects, please do not hesitate to call us or take a look at Kernlaw.org, our website, for more information.

This edition of the newsletter is the first complete edition for our new editor Lynn Watkins, who took it to heart and has produced this summary of our activities. GREAT JOB LYNN!

Our Spring "Officer of the Year Awards" dinner sold out again and we had to add extra seating; Kudos's to Angela Barton, Jon Busby, Sophie Zimmerman, Randy Winkle, Pauly Wren, Lynn Watkins, Stan Moe, Dennis Brostrom, and everyone who helped make this dinner one the most successful ever. The scholarship recipients, selected By Chief Deputy **Shelley Casteneda**, Mayor Hall and their committee, were wonderful and we introduce them to you in this issue.

We are "on fire" and need you to join the team. Call any board member or contact our secretary Pauly Wren for further information. Our fall forum on terrorism is expected to be outstanding and our special awards to departing leaders should be entertaining. The famous Chief Fivecoat and "Jay Leno" YOUNGBLOOD show; you will just have to see it to believe it. Come to support and understand what we are all about. Tickets are on sale now; contact Pauly Wren @861-7911; individual tickets are only \$20.00 per person or a table of ten for \$250.00. BE THERE! ■

KERN COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT FOUNDATION

Come out and join us for lunch and help us recognize the accomplishments of two outstanding Law Enforcement Administrators:

Assistant Chief Brian M. Smith, California Highway Patrol, was last promoted on September 1, 2010 and assigned to Central Division Office in Fresno. Prior to the promotion, Chief Smith served 4 years as Commander of the Bakersfield CHP Office with the rank of Captain. Before joining the CHP, Chief Smith served 4 years in the United States Marine Corps. Chief Smith is supported by his wife Nancy, and their 9 children, with oldest son, Robert, also serving as a CHP Officer in Ventura.

Supervisory Senior Resident Agent (SSRA) Dave Gelios joined the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) in March 1995. Agent Gelios was assigned to the Bakersfield Resident Agency in August 2006. In July 2010 Agent Gelios was selected to become the Assistant Agent in Charge of the FBI's New Haven, CT. Division and is scheduled to report in October 2010. Prior to joining the FBI, Agent Gelios was a teacher/coach in our own Kern High School District. Agent Gelios is supported by his wife and two children.

Keynote SPEAKER...

**RANDY COOK, Executive Director of Training.
The Counter Threat Institute International LLC**

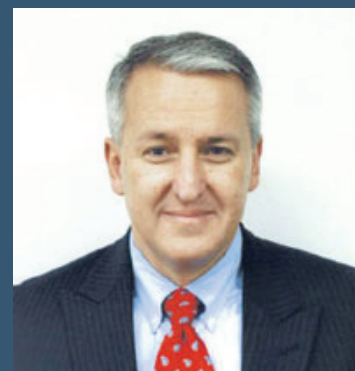
Mr. Cook has lectured all over the world covering a variety of topics concerning the activities including the Modus Operandi of various terror organizations located around the globe that are dedicated to terror. Groups such as Al-Qaeda, Hezbollah, Hamas and others involved in Domestic Terrorism are often discussed, along with their supporters and funding sources.

FALL FORUM LUNCHEON 2010

Administrator
Of The
Year Awards



Asst. Chief BRIAN SMITH
California Highway Patrol



Agent DAVE GELIOS
Federal Bureau of Investigation

WHEN Thursday, October 28, 2010
WHERE Stockdale Country Club
PRICE \$20 per person or \$250 per table
TIME 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM
TICKETS Contact Pauly Wren @ 861-7911

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

By Lynn Watkins, Editor

In 1962, National Police Week was established by President John F. Kennedy, along with a joint resolution by Congress. National Police Week recognizes and honors fallen Law Enforcement Officers killed in the line of duty. National Police Week is held in Washington D.C. each year at the National Police Monument.

This year, the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation (K.C.L.E.F.) sponsored a trip for two Honor Guards to attend the event held on May 9-15, 2010. The Honor Guards were from the Kern County Sheriff's Department and the Bakersfield Police Department, consisting of five (5) deputies from the Sheriff's Department and six (6) officers from the Police Department. The K.C.L.E.F. provided airfare and lodging; for the 11 Honor Guard Officers selected by their respective Departments to participate in the event.

I recently spoke with many of the selected Honor Guard participants from Kern County and all shared different experiences, but all expressed at least one common thread, they were overwhelmed by the amount of heartfelt respect shown these fallen heroes.

Sgt. Lee Walters from the Sheriff's Department said "I was touched by the experience". Sergeant Walters explained that through the interaction he had with officers from England, Italy and around the globe, it made him realize that they all encountered the same kinds of problems during the execution of their duties and were all subject to paying the ultimate price. He said that the profession was truly a "brotherhood and there is a thin blue line." He said this experience gave him a sense of pride in his profession.

Senior Patrolman Jeff Saso, a 13 year veteran of the Bakersfield Police Department, said "I was taken back by the camaraderie and the true respect shown by the participants for each other," during Police Week. S/P Saso told me that everyone had a story to tell and it was a pleasure to share. He said he met a retired LAPD Sergeant who was now a Captain with Burbank Airport Police. Saso said that the Officer was there to honor his friend, an L.A.P.D. SWAT Sergeant recently killed in the line

of duty. These centurions will never forget their fallen brothers.

Deputy Phillip Blanks said that it was a true honor for him to represent the Sheriff's Department during Police week. Deputy Blanks mentioned that while he was visiting the Police Memorial he observed a young girl with her hand under the statue of a Lion. Deputy Blanks said, "I was moved by the display of emotion and I took the girls picture". He said that after he took her picture he went to the girl's mother and told her about taking her daughter's picture.

Deputy Blanks said the girl's mother explained that the girl's father was also a Police Officer. She told Deputy Blanks that her husband had once visited the Police Memorial and had a picture taken while he touching the Lion with his hand. The women told Deputy Blanks that her husband and the girl's father, was killed in the line of duty just 12 days after his picture was taken.

This is powerful example of the tragedies that go hand in hand with the dangerous profession these brave men and women have chosen.

Senior Patrolman Elizabeth Luckhardt shared that she was truly honored to participate and represent the Bakersfield Police Department. S/P Luckhardt told me that she had visited Washington D.C. prior to this trip but the other trips didn't compare in terms of the emotional experiences she had encountered during Police Week. She said "observing the family members go to the wall to find a love one or a friend was remarkable and I will never forget that". S/P Luckhardt shared a photograph taken of little Ruth Rodriguez, placing her small hand on the name of her grandfather, Bill Sikola, whom she will never meet. Bill Sikola, a Motorcycle Officer, was killed on July 14, 1983 during a vehicle pursuit. Sikola was the most recent Bakersfield Policeman killed in the line of duty.

BPD Detective Chris Johnson told me "I was most moved by family members and friends placing personal items near their loved ones". Detective Johnson said "there wasn't a dry eye anywhere," on the site

of the Memorial. Johnson said he and the other BPD Officers met a group of Command Staff from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department that were outstanding and took them under their wings, showing them a wonderful time. Detective Johnson contributed many of the photographs on display with this article.

While speaking with the various Deputies and Police Officers, I learned that this experience affected them all in a variety of ways but all came away with a sense of undying pride, gratitude and respect for those who gave their all in the name of law enforcement and justice. They all expressed a desire to eventually return to National Police Week with their family or friends. All those contacted shared that they were able to take in just a few of the Washington sights, such as War Memorials and museums but given the loaded schedule of events involving National Police Week, sightseeing was held to a minimum.

All of the Deputies and Police Officers I spoke with wished to express their appreciation to the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation for giving them the opportunity to experience this event. They all said that the atmosphere exudes respect, honor, love and appreciation for the sacrifices these fallen officers made protecting America.

The K.C.L.E.F. is very proud to have supported and sponsored this effort, sending some of Kern County's finest to represent the citizens of Kern County at National Police Week 2010. Special thanks go out to Sofie Zimmerman, Stan Moe, Angela Barton and the entire K.C.L.E.F. Fundraising Committee.

They are to be commended for their efforts, almost entirely funding this project with the Texas Hold EM' Poker Tournament.

Sofie Zimmermann also worked tirelessly to make the travel arrangements for the long trip to National Police Week in Washington D.C for the group of 11 Officers. This included air travel and lodging which was no small task for a group that size. Thanks again, Sofie! ■



By Lynn Watkins, Editor

On April 6-8, 2010, members of the Kern Chiefs Association, representing 27 law enforcement agencies, gathered at The Avila Village Inn in Avila Beach, California. They were there to take part in their annual workshop hosted by the Association. The Kern Chiefs Association is comprised of senior management and executives from all 29 Federal, State, and Local law enforcement agencies in Kern County.

The workshop was designed to accomplish three major goals: First, to ensure compliance with the California Peace Officers Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Commission's training requirements for Chief Law Enforcement Executives, thereby allowing participants to earn training points from P.O.S.T. Second goal was to provide training, which is timely and beneficial to all members in attendance. The third goal was to bring the participants together to discuss and find solutions to the various crime problems that affect all agencies within Kern County.

The workshop provided training in a variety of topics that caused a valuable exchange beneficial to the leaders present. Topic examples are:

- The Executive Role in Maintaining Trust, Confidence, and Respect in Law Enforcement.
- The FBI Child Abduction-Rapid Deployment Team
- Prison Gang and Inmate Radicalization Activity in California
- Islamic Extremist Criminal Activity
- Case Law and Legal Updates
- California Legislative Updates

A special guest attending the event was State Assemblyman Danny Gilmore. The Assemblyman took time from his busy schedule to address the group, sharing information about various topics of concern.

The State of California and Kern County are facing the worst economic times in recent history, causing all law enforcement agencies to struggle with various aspects of operations, including training. So, when Charlie Fivecoat, Chief of Police in Shafter, and event coordinator, approached the K.C.L.E.F. with a request for monetary assistance to move forward with the workshop, the positive response by the Foundation was immediate. Realizing the importance of this workshop, the K.C.L.E.F. Board of Directors provided \$2800 to support the event. This money was used to assist various agencies with little or nonexistent training budgets to send a participant who might not have been able to attend otherwise. The money was also to be used for various essentials associated with producing this type of training event.

The Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation, in keeping with its mission, was very proud to sponsor this very important workshop. ■

By Lynn Watkins, Editor



If I find myself stuck on the side of a mountain, struggling to keep my head above water in the mighty "Killer Kern River" or lost somewhere in the vast no man's land of the Mojave Desert, I want one of the best Air Units in the Nation to get me out of harm's way.

On October 25, 2010, the Kern County Sheriff's Department Air Unit will receive the coveted "Excellence in Police Aviation Unit Award" in Orlando Florida at the annual International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Conference. This award is given by the leadership of the IACP through the efforts of their Aviation Committee and through the generosity of Bell Helicopters. The unit award exemplifies excellence in airborne law enforcement.

The award emphasizes initiatives to enhance the general level and safety of operations, accident prevention programs, and the efficiency and effectiveness of airborne law enforcement. I went to the Air Unit's main hanger located at the Sheriff's Department Main Office and met with Sergeant Tim Melanson, OIC of the Air Unit for the past two years, to get his perspective with regard to the reasons his unit earned this prestigious award.

Sgt. Melanson shared with me that a source of pride for the Kern County Sheriff's Department Air Unit and the Sheriff himself is that they have amassed an incredible 50,000 plus hours of accumulative accident/incident free flight serving the citizens of Kern County. Sgt. Melanson said "the Air Unit has been in existence for approximately 35 years and we fly 365 days a year averaging approximately 2,000 hours per year." Sgt. Melanson attributed a great deal of their suc-

cess in the area of safety to the efforts of Chief Mechanic, Adam Valdez, and his crew. Sgt. Melanson said that Valdez started his career with San Joaquin Helicopters but has been with the Sheriff's Department Air Unit for 24 years. Sgt. Melanson said "this award is largely attributed to Adam; his dedication to safety is incredible."

Another factor considered for the award is the existence of an Accident Prevention Program. Sgt. Melanson credits then Commander Donny Youngblood, now Sheriff Youngblood, for instituting such a program in 1997 while he was responsible for the Air Unit. Sgt. Melanson told me Sheriff Youngblood was responsible for hiring civilian Chief Pilot, Berto Penalosa, who brought thousands of hours of experience to the program. Sgt. Melanson explained that Penalosa is a Certified Flight Instructor in both fixed wing and rotor wing aircraft. He said Penalosa is responsible for administering training to all pilots, and maintaining a high level of proficiency.

The last factor considered by the IACP for the award is the efficiency and effectiveness of the unit.

Sgt. Melanson said "I attribute our success to every unit member past/present, from the A&P mechanic all the way up to the Sheriff; we have a diverse mission capability." Examples of Air Unit activities are listed below:

- Patrol Support
- Search and Rescue
- Narcotic Surveillance
- Marijuana Eradication-Long Line
- Personnel Transport
- Hoist Rescue

I asked Sgt. Melanson about the big Huey Helicopter that the Sheriff's Department acquired about two years ago and its function. He explained that due to the expense of operation, the Huey is primarily used for hoist and rescue activities. Sgt. Melanson told me that a 3-man Huey crew is on standby 5 days a week and is required to be airborne within 10 minutes should a need arise, and they routinely meet that requirement. He said the Kern County Fire Department covers the Hoist Rescue Operations 2 days per week.

Sgt. Melanson was very proud to share that the Air Unit's Hoist Recue Teams had responded to over 50 rescues in the past 2 years. He said that during the summer of 2010 alone, the Hoist Rescue Teams had lifted 10 people from the Kern River. Sgt. Melanson said that before the helicopter is dispatched, they try to use other methods of rescue such as ropes, rescue swimmers or rafts due to the risk involved in a hoist rescue with the helicopter.

In June of 2010, the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation (K.C.L.E.F) recognized 3 members of the Hoist Rescue Team for their participation in a daring river rescue resulting in the life saving rescue of Alice Paz, 11 years old, from the clutches of the river. On that particular rescue the Huey (Air 5) was being flown with the steady hands of Chief Pilot Berto Penalosa at the controls, Deputy Tim Caughron was operating the hoist and Deputy Jason Nelson was on the wire and was lowered to the river to retrieve Alice, who was barely clinging to life. Once Alice was safely in the helicopter she was rushed to the hospital with little chance for survival. Even though Alice suffered brain damage, she is improving daily through physical therapy and rehabilitation, but is alive and with her family due to the efforts of this brave crew.

For their individual parts in this rescue, Jason Nelson received the "Medal of Valor" and both Berto Penalosa and Tim Caughron received "Exceptional Officer of the Year Awards."

As Sheriff Youngblood recognized these men, he commented that anytime someone suggests that the Air Unit be cut from his budget, he reflects on the citizens who are alive today because of this unit's capability, and that's all the incentive he needs to fight for the funds to keep them in the air.

Sgt. Melanson said he will be traveling to Orlando Florida to accept the award along with Chief Mechanic, Adam Valdez, Deputy/Pilot, Norm Canby, and Deputy/Pilot, Tim Caughron.

The K.C.L.E.F. wishes to congratulate all the members of the Kern County Sheriff's Department Air Unit, past/present, who dedicated themselves to their mission and flight safety resulting in receiving this special award. ■

Officer of the Year Awards Dinner 2010

By Lynn Watkins, Editor

On June 11th, members of Kern County Law Enforcement and their supporters gathered at the Stockdale Country Club in Bakersfield, California. A sold-out crowd of 350 guests attended the 22nd annual "Officer of the Year Awards Dinner." This event's purpose is to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of a few Law Enforcement Officers and Citizens that, during the past year, have gone above and beyond in the performance of their duties or in support of Law Enforcement's mission.

Honor Guard members for the Kern County Sheriff's Department and the Bakersfield Police Department handled the posting of our Nation's colors. These proud Honor Guard members recently returned from National Police Week in Washington D.C. The Sheriff's Department was represented by Deputy Ed O'Brien and Deputy Phillip Blanks while the Police Department was represented by SP Elizabeth Luckhardt and Officer John Rodrigues. Officer Rodrigues' wife, Amber, is the daughter of Bill Sikola, the last Bakersfield Policeman killed in the line of duty on July 14, 1983.

The crowd became animated by the Barbershop Quartet type rendition of our National Anthem performed by Arnold Johansen (Board Member), Jeff Shepherd, Wair Berry and Dr. Jim Mahoney.

The invocation was delivered by Bishop Steve Nichols from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Congressman Jim Costa of the 20th Congressional District was seated at the Head Table to make a special presentation. Congressman Costa was there to present every award winner with a Certificate of Congressional Recognition from the Congress of the United States of America.

The KCLEF is very fortunate to have the support of three media sponsors in KGET-TV 17, Angela Barton, and KERO-TV 23, Dennis Brostrom, and American General Radio Group-News Talk Radio 1410, who are always there to help us convey the message concerning our fund raisers or other sponsored events.

This year's Master of Ceremonies was Jim Scott, KGET-TV 17, whose solid professionalism gracefully kept the event moving like clockwork through dinner and into the awards presentations.

Mayor Harvey Hall, also Past President of the Foundation, and Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda presented scholarships to this year's recipients, Melissa Hernandez and Amy Waters.

There were three "Citizen of the Year" awards this year. Angela Barton, KCLEF Board Member, presented the award to Mr. Bobby Sellers and Ms. Kelly Woodhouse of Bikersfield Leather & Accessories. Mr. Sellers and Ms. Woodhouse opened "Bikersfield" approximately 4 and a half years ago and during that time; they have done 300-400 bike runs for charity. It all began with helping the community with a charity ride for Shriners. When asked why she does it, Ms. Woodhouse responded, "I feel it's something I'm supposed to be doing."

Bakersfield CHP Commander, Captain Brian Smith, presented Charlie Napier with the "Citizen of the Year" award. Everyone knows that Charlie is a famous character actor and has appeared in hundreds of films and several TV series, as well as numerous voice overs such as Rugrats, Thornberry's, Sylvester,

Tweety and yes, Superman. Charlie is a colorful character, but that's not why he was honored by the Foundation. Charlie was honored for freely giving of his time and persona in the interest of helping Kern County charities. Examples are Cooks of the Valley, the Wounded Heroes Fund, CHP Officer Richard Maxwell Memorial, and USO. Charles attends numerous benefit golf tournaments and events for the Sheriff's Department, Bakersfield Police Department and the CHP, American Cancer Society and many others. All this makes it clear why Charlie Napier is worthy of this honor.

Foundation President Tom Sheets recognized Greg and Tamara Sturges, owners of CommWorld Kern County, for their selfless dedication to fundraising and hard work in the interest of all the Law Enforcements Agencies in Kern County. For their efforts, they were honored as "Businessman/Business Woman of the Year."

Tom Sheets also recognized the accomplishments of Wes Bradford of Clifford and Bradford Insurance for saving the "Golden Empire Bowl," also known as the Potato Bowl. Mr. Bradford also gives of his time and money to the Wounded Heroes Fund. For his unselfish dedication to the preservation of a longtime cherished event and his patriotic support of Kern County's wounded heroes returning from war, Mr. Bradford was given our "Businessman of the Year" award.

Sheriff Donny Youngblood presented the Foundations "Public Service Award" to Mr. Louis Kerker. Sheriff Youngblood said that Mr. Kerker comes into the Sheriff's Office every Monday and Wednesday, greets everyone and then goes about his work as a volunteer. The Sheriff said "Louis is an inspiration to everyone". We also learned that Mr. Kerker went through the Great Depression of the 1930s and when he's not volunteering with the Sheriff's Department, he's collecting food for the Alliance against Family Violence or assisting kids with the Shriners. Oh, I almost forgot, on February 12, 2011, Louis Kerker will be 100 years old. Simply amazing!

Tom Sheets, KCLEF President, acknowledged the endeavors and successes of the Foundation's Fund Raising Committee.

The Committee was chaired by Angela Barton, co-chaired by Greg Sturges and assisted by committee members Jon Busby, Kristina El Holm-Spitzer, Lynn Watkins, Randy Winkle and Pauly Wren and Sofie Zimmermann. The President pointed out that in just a little over two years, the amount of money raised has increased impressively to the neighborhood of \$100,000, which is an unprecedented amount in that time frame. All members of the committee received the "President's Award" for their efforts.

There were 8 Officers selected for the "Exceptional Officer of the Year" award. This award is given to Officers who have distanced themselves from their peers in terms of what is normally anticipated in terms of performance. Recognition can come from a single act of risk in a dangerous situation or an accumulation of above average accomplishments in the performance of their duties.

Major Gregory Jarmiusz, Commander, 95th Security Forces Squadron presented the Foundation's "Exceptional Officer of the Year" award to Senior Airman Janelle F. Carrera. Major Jarmiusz told the crowd

that Airman Carrera had recently been deployed to Kuwait and he accepted the award on her behalf.

CHP Captain Brian Smith presented the Foundation's "Exceptional Officer of the Year" award to Officer Kenny Hagerman, a 13-year veteran working in the Bakersfield Area office. Captain Smith shared that Officer Hagerman excelled in all areas of enforcement and consistently leads his shift in enforcement activity from issuing citations to arresting DUI drivers.

Chief of Police David Frazer, McFarland Police Department, presented the "Exceptional Officer of the Year" awards to 2 of his police officers. Chief Frazer was there to recognize Sergeant Gregory Harrington and Senior Officer Michael Weber. The City of McFarland's Police Department just became operational in January 2010 and has been a haven for gang activity. When information was discovered that two or more gangs were planning actions against the police department with intentions to do harm, the two police officers launched an investigation and formed a task force focused on the gang before they could take action. The task force was comprised of officers from numerous law enforcement agencies. The operation yielded several arrests and the overall result has been a reduction in gang activity in McFarland.

Assistant Chief Lyle Martin of the Bakersfield Police Department presented the Foundation's "Exceptional Officer of the Year" award to the very deserving Officer Brent Stratton, a 6-year veteran with 3 years experience in the BPD Gang Unit. Officer Stratton's successes in solving crimes through his expertise with gangs are very impressive and too many to mention. Officer Stratton, through his information gathering, has been able to provide leads that resulted in suspect identification and arrests for numerous serious crimes such as carjacking, armed robbery and homicides, not only in the City of Bakersfield, but with other agencies as well. His determination, perseverance and efficiency are second to none, making Officer Stratton very worthy for this honor.

Lt. Brian Clayton, Bakersfield Police Department, presented BPD Detective Herman Caldas, with the "Exceptional Officer of the Year" award for his perseverance as Lead Detective in the infamous Babies R Us Kidnap, Robbery and Rape case of involving a local woman. The woman was kidnapped at gunpoint along with her infant child, and she was eventually robbed and raped. During the investigation of these crimes, DNA evidence was collected that positively identified the suspect as Anthony Ray Graham Jr., 28 years old, who was also picked out in a photo lineup. It was learned that the suspect's criminal history was from the Los Angeles Area. Authorities from that area were notified and eventually arrested Graham. After a trial, Graham was convicted of Kidnap, Robbery and Rape and sentenced to 50 years to life plus 20 years. Detective Caldas is a shining example of the dedication shown by our law enforcement officers.

Kern County Sheriff Donny Youngblood presented the next three KCLEF awards to members of the Air-5 Rescue Team, Chief Pilot Berto Penaloza, Deputy Tim Caughron, Hoist Operator, and Deputy Jason Nelson, Rescue Specialist. On September 9, 2009, Air-5 received a call for assistance and was airborne and on their way to help in less than 6 minutes, when minutes, if not seconds, make a life saving differ-

ence. When Air-5 arrived on scene, they found Alice Paz, 11 years old on a small rock in the Kern River. A plan was quickly formulated and with Pilot Penaloza at the controls, Deputy Nelson was lowered to the victim under the watchful eye of Deputy Caughron who was operating the hoist and giving verbal commands to the pilot. Pilot Penaloza was unable to see their progress as he hovered over the victim and Deputy Nelson. When Deputies Nelson and Caughron were able to get little Alice on board, the Huey she was barely clinging to life. Alice was rushed to the hospital and did survive but suffered some brain damage. Due to the team effort of these 3 men, Alice is improving daily. For their valiant parts in this life saving rescue, Chief Pilot Penaloza and Deputy Caughron received the "Exceptional Officer of the Year" award and Deputy Jason Nelson was awarded the "Medal of Valor." These men can't be thanked enough for what they do in the most challenging and dangerous environments imaginable!

Chief Greg Williams, Bakersfield Police Department, was there to recognize Officer Aaron Stringer and Officer Isaac Aleman, for their actions while foiling an Armed Robbery in progress. The Officers were working as a two-man car when they heard the initial call, a suspicious person/s wearing hoods at the rear of a 7-11 Store on Wilson Road. When the call went out the officers were close by, arriving 23 seconds later and tactically approached the store on foot. As Officer Aleman approached, he observed a suspect running toward the rear of the store. When he reached the rear of the business, Officer Aleman was ambushed by a second, unseen suspect hiding behind a wall. The suspect, armed with a handgun, fired on Officer Aleman striking him in the upper leg. Officer Aleman immediately dropped down, drew his own handgun and returned fire on the suspect. Officer Stringer heard the gunfire and when he got to the rear of the store, he saw a suspect with a handgun pointed at Officer Aleman. He immediately engaged the suspect, firing several shots, striking the suspect. Chief Williamson said that despite being shot, Officer Aleman distinguished himself by not giving up and returning fire while he demonstrated extreme courage to stop an armed and violent suspect who had shown his willingness to kill police officers. The instantaneous response by Officer Stringer, going to the aid of Officer Aleman at the risk of his own life, took great courage, his swift action possibly saving Officer Aleman and other responding officers as well as preventing the violent suspect from escaping into the residential community. For their valiant actions on that evening, Chief Williamson presented Officers Aleman and Stringer with the "Medal of Valor."

The last award of the evening was the "Officer of the Year" award presented by Sheriff Donny Youngblood. It was just before 2:30 AM on May 10, 2010 when Deputy Darren Wonderly was notified by the Communications Center that there was a fire reported at California Trail and East End Drive in Frazier Park.

Deputy Wonderly, realizing that he was closer than the Fire Department, responded. When he arrived, he observed that half the roof on a residence was fully engulfed in flames. There were vehicles in the driveway, and the home was completely dark, leading Deputy Wonderly to believe that there were most likely people sleeping inside the residence. When the Deputy made his way to the front door,

he discovered that it was locked so he forced his way inside to warn the occupants. Deputy Wonderly went from room to room yelling "the house was on fire, you need to get out." He evacuated 3 adults and 3 children from four different rooms and then returned and evacuated the family dogs and on his way out grabbed blankets to keep the family warm, then again accounted for all six. Deputy Wonderly then told the victims to move their cars away from the house to a safe location. Deputy Wonderly then evacuated the occupants from the home next door.

Later, Captain Phillips of the Kern County Fire Department said that Deputy Wonderly displayed great courage when he entered the burning residence since he had no way of knowing how extensive the fire was prior to entering the residence.

Captain Phillips commended Deputy Wonderly for his response to the fire. He said that if they had been delayed and Deputy Wonderly had not responded, the sleeping occupants inside the burning house would have perished in the fire.

Deputy Wonderly's courage, dedication and sound decision making most likely saved 6 lives, earning him the distinction of being named as "Officer of the Year".

The Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation wishes to congratulate and express our deep appreciation to all recipients of these awards. ■



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Vests for **TEHACHAPI** Police Department

By Lynn Watkins, Editor

In late February 2010 the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation (K.C.L.E.F.) received a letter from Chief Jeff Kermode, Tehachapi Police Department, and requesting assistance with the purchase of Safety Equipment for his department. Chief Kermode explained that Tehachapi Police Department had suffered from far-reaching budget cuts resulting in the inability to purchase certain tools necessary to enhance officer safety.

Chief Kermode's request was in the amount of \$3000.00 to purchase 5 tactical vests and 1 Portable Breath Testing Unit. The value of each item was around \$500.00. The Chief said that the tools would be used by the patrol officers in the performance of their duties.

The Tehachapi Police Department was formed approximately 3 years ago and has been working meticulously to provide the excellent police services that the citizens of Tehachapi deserve and have come to expect. Due to the recent economic downturn, many Police Agencies throughout Kern County are struggling to maintain an expectable level of service while working within a very restrictive budget.

This request was brought before the Board of Director's at the regularly scheduled meeting in March 2010 for consideration. After discussing the request, the board voted to approve the full amount of \$3000.00.

On April 19, 2010, Board Members Frank Williams and Lynn Watkins traveled to Tehachapi to present a check to Chief Kermode at the City Council Meeting. Both Chief Kermode and members of the City Council openly expressed their gratitude for the assistance.

TASERS FOR **MC FARLAND** POLICE DEPARTMENT

By Lynn Watkins, Editor

On April 28, 2010, Chief of Police David Frazer, McFarland Police Department, made a written request to the K.C.L.E.F. for funding to purchase four additional tasers for his department. In his letter, Frazer spoke about the difficult decisions he had to make in a short period of time to make his Police Department operational with a very restrictive budget. Chief Frazer told the Board of Directors that his Department initially purchased seven tasers to be shared among 10 Police Officers, one Community Service Officer and four Reserve Police Officers. There was a total staff of 15 officers using the seven tasers.

Chief Frazer explained that in the first months of operation, his Department had the occasion to utilize the taser at least seven times. He went on to explain that the community of McFarland presented "some very real officer safety issues, involving gangs, drugs and general lawlessness that has been the norm for some time." Chief Frazer further explained that as his Officers increase their presence to turn the tide to change behavior, they are certain to run into increased resistance. Frazer stated that his department needed more tasers for the safety of his officers, and there was simply no money for this purpose.

The request made the situation obvious: If the McFarland Police Department was going to prevail, they needed the tools to maintain an acceptable level of officer safety to accomplish their mission of changing criminal behavior.

Chief Frazer's desire was to provide all members of his department working patrol with a taser, and he needed \$3200 for the purchase of four Model X26 Tasers for the

Police Department. Chief Frazer turned to the K.C.L.E.F. for assistance. After a review of the request by the Board of Directors, the vote was unanimous to provide the funding for this equipment.

On Thursday, June 10, 2010, Board members Kristi Elholm-Spitzer, Lynn Watkins and Randy Winkle traveled to McFarland City Hall to make the presentation at the City Council meeting. Mr. Winkle addressed the City Council, letting them know how pleased the K.C.L.E.F. felt to be able to provide assistance during their time of need. Mr. Winkle then presented Chief Frazer with the check in the amount of \$3200.

Chief Frazer expressed his appreciation to the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation for the funds to purchase the tasers for the McFarland Police Department.



Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

On June 11, 2010 supporters of Kern County Law gathered to recognize Law Enforcement Officers and citizens who have gone above and beyond in the past year in the interest of the Kern County Communities. Another endeavor of KCLEF is sponsoring scholarships for deserving students who aspire to a career in the Law Enforcement or Criminology field. To meet the criteria and qualify, a student must be enrolled as a fulltime student and maintain a 3.0 grade-point average or higher, have lived in Kern County for the past five years, and plan on working in a local law enforcement organization.

The recipient is awarded a \$4,000 scholarship paid each semester or quarter based on proof of eligibility. Past recipients have been both high school students entering college and students already attending college.

This year, Scholarship Committee Members, Mayor Harvey Hall and Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda of the Kern County Sheriff's

Department reviewed the six applications received, conducted interviews and made the selections.

The members of the committee expressed how difficult it was to make the selections because all the candidates were very deserving.

Chief Deputy Castaneda expressed how proud she was to announce the winner of the 2010 4-year scholarship, Melissa Hernandez who was accompanied by her parents, Norma Quiroga and Jose Hernandez. Melissa graduated from Cesar E. Chavez High School and was on the Honor Roll and the Principal's Honor Roll and was in the AVID Club during her last three years in high school.

This year, KCLEF awarded a 2nd Bill Dolan scholarship to Amy Waters, a 2008 graduate of Shafter High School with a 3.8 GPA. In May 2010, Amy earned an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts from Bakersfield College. During Amy's tenure at B.C. she also completed a number of criminal justice classes and made

the Dean's list. Amy will be attending the University of Central Oklahoma in the fall with plans to pursue a double major in Criminal Justice and Crime Scene Investigation. When asked why she chose to pursue a career in criminal justice, Amy said "I feel that it will be a job that will challenge me everyday".

This program is exceptionally rewarding to our Board of Directors because investing in our future Law Enforcement leaders is a goal of the Foundation. We wish both recipients continued success.

For information about the KCLEF Scholarship Program, contact Sharon Scoggins of Hall Ambulance Service, Inc., at (661) 322-1626 or Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda at the Kern County Sheriff's Department. ■





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Gift **FOR A FATHER** **Richard Maxwell's** Duty Weapon

By Lynn Watkins, Editor

On July 11, 1994 in Bakersfield, California, what began as a routine traffic stop quickly escalated into a senseless act of violence. While on patrol, CHP Officer Richard A. Maxwell observed a traffic violation take place and when he attempted to stop the vehicle, the driver failed to yield, resulting in a brief pursuit. A fact unknown to Officer Maxwell was that the vehicle was being operated by Bruce Sons while his stepson, Jeremy Toomey, 16 years old, was a passenger.

When the vehicle did yield, it was at the residence of Bruce Sons and initially turned into a verbal confrontation between Sons and Officer Maxwell. It was then that the stepson, Toomey, pointed a shotgun at Officer Maxwell. When Officer Maxwell pulled his weapon and repeatedly ordered Toomey to drop his, Sons moved to his garage where he pulled a second shotgun and eventually shot Officer Maxwell twice then fled the scene.

Officer Maxwell later died from his wounds in a nearby hospital. After a short time, both Sons and Toomey were arrested and charged with the murder of Officer Maxwell.

After the first of four trials, both Sons and Toomey were convicted of First Degree Murder and sent to prison. After several appeals and two retrials in 2005 that ended in hung juries, Sons was granted a fourth trial and was convicted of Manslaughter on May 9, 2006. After the last trial, Sons was released from jail after serving a total of 12 years. Toomey was released at age 25 after serving 9.5 years, due to California's Juvenile Laws at the time. Most in Law Enforcement consider the final trial result a travesty of justice!

The loss has been great for Maxwell's family, but efforts by the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation and others are underway so that his parents can be granted Maxwell's duty weapon.

Almost since the end of the last trial, CHP Sergeant Jeff Crosswhite has worked tirelessly to cut through the red tape to secure the release of Officer Maxwell's duty

weapon from the DA's Office. Once that was accomplished, there was also State and Federal paperwork required, and getting the gun transferred and registered out of state. The intent has always been to satisfy the desire of Officer Maxwell's parents to possess their son's gun.

In May of this year, Captain Brian Smith, Commander of the Bakersfield CHP Office, approached the Board of Directors with a request to help purchase Officer Maxwell's

duty weapon for his father, William Maxwell, who resides in Wisconsin. After a short review, it was determined that the request didn't fall within the guidelines of the Kern Law Enforcement Foundation to help as an organization.

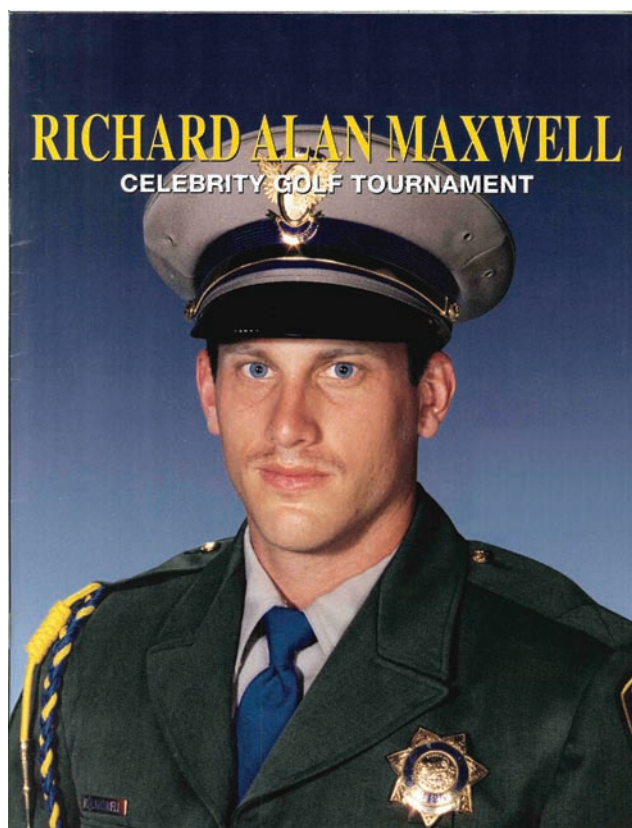
Further discussion by the Board of Directors revealed that the Directors themselves wanted to purchase this fallen Officer's duty weapon for his father. The collection garnered more than enough money for the purchase.

On August 28, 2010, I contacted William "Bill" Maxwell, the father of Officer Richard Maxwell, to determine if he had

received the weapon. Mr. Maxwell informed me that he was still waiting to receive the gun and was told the gun had been sent to Los Angeles for an unknown reason and would eventually reach him.

While speaking with Mr. Maxwell, I learned that he and his wife are avid supporters of law enforcement and that both of them serve on the Board of Directors for "Concerns of Police Survivors" (COPS) in their home state of Wisconsin. Mr. Maxwell told me that his son, Richard, was his middle child and a good son. He told me that he and his wife miss their son very much.

I asked Mr. Maxwell why Richard's duty weapon was important to him and his response was "because it was the last thing Richard touched." I could feel his pain when he made the statement. Officer Maxwell left behind a family and friends that obviously loved him very much. The Maxwell family will never be the same but neither will law enforcement because we lost a hero that will never be forgotten... ■



TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER NIGHT

By Lynn Watkins, Editor

On April 17, 2010, the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation (K.C.L.E.F.) sponsored a Poker Tournament to fund a trip to Washington D.C. for National Police Week held May 9-15, 2010. The participants were selected from the Kern County Sheriff's Department and the Bakersfield Police Department Honor Guards.

Members of several Law Enforcement Agencies, members of K.C.L.E.F. and the community at large gathered to pack the house at the CHP "420 Club" located on Alfred Harrell Highway in Bakersfield. The donation was \$100 for players and \$20 for non-players. The price included a steak dinner with all the trimmings.

In addition to the Poker Tournament there were raffle tickets sold for a 50-50 Drawing and the numerous prizes being raffled off during breaks in the poker action. There was also entertainment outside and adult beverages were available. Sofie Zimmerman, Stan Moe and Angela Barton took the lead in organizing this event with assistance from other members of the K.C.L.E.F. This event was very enjoyable and rewarding in terms of fund raising, so we hope to see you all out there next year for another rewarding experience.

The Grand Prize Winner of \$1000 for her outstanding play in the Poker Tournament was Norma Bramlett, who was all smiles after taking the big money prize!!!

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of K.C.L.E.F., I wish express our sincere appreciation to all those wonderful folks in Kern County who came out, played some poker and generally had a great time while supporting this worthwhile cause.

If you haven't yet had the opportunity, please take the time to read the article about National Police Week. It will give you some insight regarding the importance of National Police Week and the impact participation made on the officers who attended. ■

WANT TO JOIN



**Kern County
Law Enforcement
Foundation**

Our Membership Committee made up of Jon Busby, Greg Struges, Wayne Ketcherside, Mike Larsen, David Merritt, Frank Williams and the newest member SOFIE ZIMMERMANN are working on our mailing lists for the newsletter and membership information for soliciting new members.

If you have ever been a member and did not get your renewal; all you have to do is go to www.kernlaw.org to download an application to mail to us. Please indicate what years you were a member so we can rush your updated background check through the Sheriff's Department with Board Member Stan Moe.

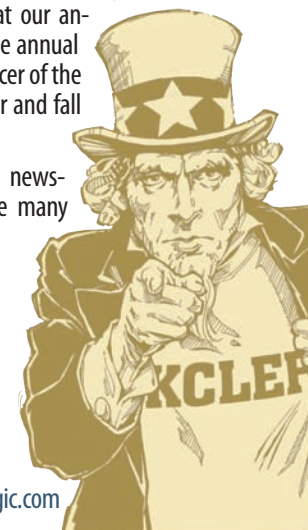
If you are a new member wanting to join review, our history and bylaws are on the website and you can also download an application and the sponsor can be any board member or law enforcement officer.

If you don't know anyone of us, then put "open" in the recommendation and it will be forwarded to our background committee. The website has all of the information on membership and backgrounds.

You can read about many of the projects and events that have taken place over the years as we continue to improve and add to the website. Individual memberships are only \$100 per year and are tax deductible under 501c rules, check with your accountant to confirm. Our business sponsorships are \$500 and \$1000 per year and go towards awards, grants and scholarships given by our organization.

We have given out over \$500,000 since we began in 1988. You can be as involved as you want to be and are always welcome at our annual events like the annual clay shoot, the officer of the year awards dinner and fall forums.

Look over this newsletter and see the many things we do. ■



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Law Enforcement
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The Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) organization. Your dues and donations may be tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor.

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